

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 00694 261136Z
ACTION H-03

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R 261100Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0694

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BR
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO SENATOR MATHIAS' VISIT

REFS: (A) STATE 14021 (B) 76 BRASILIA 10455 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE SENATOR MATHIAS UNFORTUNATELY WILL NOT VISIT BRAZIL AT THIS TIME, WORTH NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER INVOLVED AREAS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DISPLAYED MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST IN VISIT, AS INDICATED CHIEFLY BY HIGH-LEVEL GOB OFFICIALS THAT WERE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIM. ALTHOUGH WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY RELATIVELY LITTLE LEAD TIME FOR SCHEDULING, AS OF MORNING OF JANUARY 21 FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTROL OFFICER HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE SIMONSEN, MINISTER OF JUSTICE FALCAO, CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD GOLBERY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SEVERO GOMES AND GOVERNOR OF FEDERAL DISTRICT ELMO SEREJO FARIAS. EVEN THOUGH CONGRESS IS OUT OF SESSION UNTIL EARLY MARCH AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO IS VACATIONING IN RIO, MAGALHAES HIMSELF HAD AGREED TO RETURN TO BRASILIA ESPECIALLY TO MEET WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 00694 261136Z

MATHIAS, WITH REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING OF SENATE AND CHAMBER LEADERS TO BE PRESENT. (MAGALHAES' RESPONSIVENESS APPEARS MORE SIGNIFICANT IN THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACT WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF US GOVERNMENT SINCE EMBARRASSING (TO MAGALHAES) RELEASE OF SECRET US DOCUMENTS FROM 1964 REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD IN WHICH HE FIGURED PROMINENTLY BUT NOT ALWAYS FAVORABLY--REFTEL (B).

2. AT THE TIME OF THE SENATOR'S CANCELLATION, NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON OUR REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTROL OFFICER ALSO SAID AT THAT TIME PROSPECTS WERE GOOD FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH OTHER CABINET LEVEL OFFICERS THAT WE HAD REQUESTED, SUCH AS MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI AND CHIEF OF THE PLANNING SECRETARIAT REIS VELLOSO. ALSO WORTH NOTING IS THAT THE BRAZILIAN PRESS'S TWO PREMIER POLITICAL ANALYSTS, CARLOS CASTELLO BRANCO, JORNAL DO BRASIL AND CARLOS CHAGAS OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, ACCEPTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY INVITATIONS TO MEET WITH SENATOR FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS DURING EVENING SOCIAL AFFAIR.

3. WE CONSIDER THIS HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT INTEREST DUE IN PART OF COURSE TO SENATOR'S REPUTATION AS EFFECTIVE AND INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL LEGISLATOR. BUT TO US, ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE, WHICH WE THINK WAS ENCOURAGED BY SILVEIRA, ALSO BETRAYS SPECIAL DESIRE OF GOB TO AVAIL ITSELF OF EFFECTIVE, WELL-PLACED CHANNEL TO PRESENT BRAZIL'S CASE IN THE US DURING THIS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND DIMINISHED CONTACT ACCOMPANYING THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON.
CRIMMINS

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